

**Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 24th November 2022 at Hexham Golf Club**

Present: Wendy Dale, Alicia Cresswell, Barrie Mellars, John Dark, Colin Argent, David Pattinson, Lesley Parsons, Sally Hewitt, Barbara Redhead and Susan Turnbull

No.	Activity	Action/ person
1	Welcome and Apologies: A warm welcome was extended to Barbara Redhead who had been co-opted onto the committee to take over from David in March. Wendy asked Barbara to get an email address she could use for the u3a and clarified that Barbara was now a trustee; she asked Susan to send Barbara a Trustee form to complete.	ST
2	Minutes of meeting held on 27 th October 2022 were accepted as a true record.	
3	Matters Arising: David represented Tynedale u3a at a Regional Zoom meeting with Liz Drury, Chair of TAT. He thought this was to voice concerns about the way TAT was managed but Liz wanted to discuss the restructuring of TAT. Mo Brown asked David and another member to document their concerns which would be shared with TAT.	
4	<p>Chair's Report: There is the question of how to deal with the 40th anniversary at the AGM. Wendy has spoken to Margret Jacot about acting as compère, after the business of the AGM, regarding members' memories but Margret wasn't able to do it. Wendy will try to identify people who have been members for more than 10 years to see if any of them could do it.</p> <p>Alicia suggested interviewing older members for memories, which Sally offered to do and Barrie offered to do the technical side. Wendy will identify likely members and invite members to get involved as a subcommittee.</p> <p>For an open day event it was suggested we could build on the AGM event. Colin's idea was to have an event at the Mart with just a display where people could call in, have a look and a chat and leave; this should alleviate any possible capacity problems.</p>	WD SH BM WD
5	<p>Business Secretary's Report: All information received has been distributed.</p> <p>Barrie asked if the AGM would be in person and on Zoom like last year. It was agreed that it would so he said he would set up the voting process for Zoom.</p>	BM
6	Treasurer's Report: We have had 48 new members since the Open Day in September, which means that our annual subscription revenue is some 27% higher than the whole of 2021 with a month to spare. This has resulted in a growth in our Net Funds (Net Assets on	

	<p>the statement) to £17,444 and puts more pressure on our goals to reduce this sum across time in accordance with our Finance Policy. We now have 471 members.</p> <p>David had produced projection figures for 2023 and 2024 and explained the various assumption that were made and how they would affect the outcome. If his assumptions were correct our surplus would reduce slightly. He said that the only way we could reduce our surplus to a greater degree would be by expenditure on hardware (which would benefit all of the members) or a reduction in the membership fee. There was much discussion about the membership fee but it was decided that keeping the fee as it was during a period of high inflation was appropriate. There was much discussion about supporting groups financially but David insisted that groups must be self financing and any expenditure had to be for the benefit of all members. Barbara asked about mitigating for hardship. This was thought to be a good idea but there would need to be rules in place before it could be implemented. Wendy said this should be explored.</p>	
7	<p>Programme Secretary's Report: The last meeting was well attended with some 70+ members present. Unfortunately, the zoom element was not successful due to problems with the Abbey Wi-Fi. This has been addressed. Wendy asked Barrie to put something on the introductory screen to say that if members have comments or questions to use the 'chat' option.</p> <p>Next month the speaker will be Chris Pollock from the Science group on Poisons and Toxins and the speaker calendar is filled until next May.</p> <p>Desert Island Disks continues to have a loyal audience of 30+.</p> <p>The talk by Mike Bentley, for the science group (to which all of Tynedale u3a are invited), will be free because the Masonic Hall isn't going to charge but we can't book for the quiz night until the new year.</p>	BM
8	<p>Membership Secretary's Report: We have 20 new members so far in November but some existing members have not yet renewed; mid December might be a good time to start ringing around. The next coffee morning is a week tomorrow and John has invited new members.</p> <p>Wendy asked if we still wanted to register people attending the monthly meeting as there is often a queue. John had enquired with Owen at the Abbey and he said they just need numbers, so it was decided that Barrie will buy a clicker and we will just count people as they arrive. Susan will do the clicking and she will ask Elizabeth to note the details of visitors.</p>	ST
9	<p>Publicity Officer's Report: The next advert in the Courant is booked for the 26th January but the price has increased. Sally has sent information to Burn Brae and Sele medical practices for their display screens and she is producing posters as well.</p> <p>Facebook membership is now up to 52 but Sally isn't getting new information from groups which would encourage people to look at it. Sally suggested putting an article in the newsletter encouraging new FB content.</p>	
10	<p>Newsletter Editor's Report: The full draft of the newsletter is nearly ready and will be distributed soon.</p> <p>Alicia is concerned that there is still no one to take over her role so Wendy will ask again</p>	WD

	<p>at the monthly meeting.</p> <p>Barbara suggested an article for the newsletter on how the u3a is run because it appears that a lot of people don't know that it is run by volunteer members.</p>	
11	<p>Group Liaison Secretary's Report: There are a number of groups coming along but some won't get underway until the new year. There seems to be a need for a 'Members On Their Own' group but not much interest has been shown. Colin asked if a WhatsApp group might be more appropriate than an official group but David said that someone would have to administer it.</p> <p>Colin has been contacted by Katy Hull (National u3a) asking if our u3a is doing anything for the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian's Wall. It was decided that Colin should refer her back to John Sandiford.</p>	
12	<p>Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report: Websites of u3as are down and there isn't much information about what the problem is and when it will be fixed. Barrie asked if we had to use a website run by TAT and Lesley said not necessarily but the advantage was that it was easy to use with no technical ability.</p>	
13	<p>Events Secretary's Report: There are some events coming up next year i.e. the quiz, and the visits to Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.</p> <p>Wendy asked if we should provide mince pies at the December monthly meeting. It agreed that we should and Wendy will enquire at the Abbey.</p>	WD
14	<p>Regional and Third Age Trust: There was nothing to report.</p>	
15	<p>A.O.B.: We need to review our policies but we ran out of time for discussion so this will be carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>David asked for any expenses to be claimed before the end of the year.</p> <p>Wendy asked Alicia and Susan to look at the meeting dates and deadlines for next year.</p>	AC ST
16	<p>Date and time for next meeting: Friday 16th December 2022 at 10:30am at the Golf Club.</p>	

Meeting ended at 16:00



Signed:

Dated: 18.12.2022